



**FARM RAISED
CATFISH**

CATFISH FARMERS OF AMERICA

1419 '98 FEB 17 1100 HIGHWAY 82 E. SUITE 202
INDIANOLA, MISSISSIPPI 38751
(601) 887-2699

February 9, 1998

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23
Rockville, MD 20857

SUBJECT: Comments on the Discussion Draft "Proposals to
Increase the Availability of Approved Animal
Drugs for Minor Species and Minor Use" (Docket
No. 97N-0217)

As the association representing the largest aquaculture production in the United States, the Catfish Farmers of America wishes to thank the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) for their extraordinary efforts to improve our chances of gaining approvals for aquaculture drugs. As part of these efforts, CVM released the Discussion Draft "Proposals to Increase the Availability of Approved animal Drugs for Minor Species and Minor Use" (Docket No. 97N-0217)." We feel that all the provisions for action contained in the draft document should be pursued as soon as possible, whether they are Congressional, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or CVM actions. There is a tremendous need to amend the Food Drug, and cosmetic Act where suggested by CVM to reduce the effort needed to gain approvals for use on catfish. Removing disincentives and offering incentives to pharmaceutical firms will encourage more sponsors of minor use supplemental new animal drug applications.

We wholeheartedly endorse all the proposals by CVM to increase the availability of drugs for aquaculture.

Respectfully,

HUGH WARREN
Exec. Vice-Pres.

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